



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Statement From the Office of Environmental Stewardship Regarding Recent Erosion at Keith Middle School

New Bedford, Massachusetts- As a result of the rain that occurred on Wednesday, April 4, 2007, a small portion of the embankment at the Keith Middle School suffered a wash out of the grass covering which was planted last fall. This area of erosion will be repaired by a contractor hired by the City of New Bedford.

The embankment is located outside of the parking area south of the school, beyond the protective school fencing and between the wetlands area west of the school. Soil eroded from a 6-foot by 9-foot area and the depth of the eroded area ranges from 1 to 12 inches. The erosion did not affect the protective barrier that separates contaminated soil from the clean soil cap, and no contaminated soil has been exposed as a result of the erosion.

The City notified the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Protection of the erosion and contacted its consultant, TRC Environmental, to identify corrective measures. The City will stabilize the affected area to prevent any further erosion. The City's contractor will be on site next week to permanently repair the affected area by installing loam, seed and fabric to prevent future erosion.

Once vegetation on the slope is established, it is expected that the potential for erosion will be significantly reduced.

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